

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 /060 W

----- 057483

R 011448Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7281

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINR, HU

SUBJ: CABINET CHANGES

REF: BUDAPEST 3690

1. IN ANTICLIMATIC MOVE OCTOBER 29, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF ARPAD PULLAI AS MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND POSTAL AFFAIRS REPLACING KAROLY RODONYI WHO RETIRED. AS REPORTED REFTEL, PULLAI WAS RELIEVED OF DUTIES AS MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY OF HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST WORKERS' PARTY (HSWP) OCTOBER 26 ALLEGEDLY "OWING TO ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT". COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ALSO ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 29 RETIREMENT OF ISTVAN SZURDI FROM HIS POST AS MINISTER OF INTERNAL TRADE AND HIS REPLACEMENT BY FORMER STATE SECRETARY FOR INTERNAL TRADE, VOLMOS SAGHY.

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2. SAGHY NOT KNOWN PERSONALLY TO EMBASSY STAFF BUT

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL TRADE HAS FUNCTIONED EFFECTIVELY IN PAST
UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP AND THAT OF OUTGOING MINISTER
SZURDI. FROM PUBLISHED BIOGRAPHY (BEING POUCHED)
CLEAR THAT SAGHY HAS STRONG TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND
BACKGROUND. AT SAME TIME, HE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN
ENGAGED AT LOW LEVEL WITHIN HSWP AT EARLY STAGE IN
HIS CAREER.

3. COMMENT: BOTH SZURDI AND RODONYI 65 THIS YEAR.
NO REASON TO DOUBT THEIR RETIREMENT STRICTLY ROUTINE.
BOTH HAVE BEEN KNOWN FOR SOME TIME TO BE IN POOR HEALTH.
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS LOSES ONE PARTY STALWARD (SZURDI)
AND ONE TECHNOCRAT (RODONYI) BUT NO NET CHANGE AS
PARTY FIGURE (PULLAI) AND TECHNOCRAT (SAGHY) ADDED.
MUDD

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